

*Given to Betty
Ann of 'Night'
10/25*

June 30, 1987

MEMORANDUM TO: GC - Walt Raymond
FROM: D/PS - Louise G. Wheeler
SUBJECT: Variety Clubs Benefit Afghan Children
President Reagan letter through Carlucci

Thank you for the attached letter to President Reagan which you had hand-carried to my office on Thursday. It was edited according to your notes and should be ready to send. I understood you would be out of the office until this morning and had my staff check with Pat Siemien to see if the letter should be sent last week or await your return.

She felt it would probably be best to wait for your return because the Director had suggested that you remind Frank Carlucci of the NSC meeting in March in which the Afghan relief was first discussed, and that the letter to the President requesting he make a video for the dinner be routed through Carlucci. He seemed to feel you were the appropriate person to make this work.

With regard to your question as to how we can be certain the funds go to the right place, Variety Clubs International has an impressive worldwide reputation for helping children - providing new limbs, hearts, wheelchairs, "Sunshine Coaches" for handicapped transportation and many other programs to help the disadvantaged. They have also helped our private sector program in many ways. (A "Sunshine Coach" has recently been donated to China at our request.). I have no doubts whatsoever about their integrity or "follow-through" on any promise.

Since you had a question about the name of the organization "Afghan Children's Relief Fund" I eliminated the reference until I have time to check the exact title of the organization and substituted the phrase "to benefit the wounded Afghan children."

Thanks for expediting this.

#4209P:D/PS:FBG:pb:6/30/87

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DRAFT LETTER FOR PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President:

You have expressed your concern for the plight of the wounded children of Afghanistan on many occasions. I particularly remember one such time at an NSC meeting in March.

I am aware of an event which will take place in New York at the Waldor Astoria on September 22, 1987 which will provide financial assistance to the Afghan children. The event is the annual Variety Children's Lifeline Award dinner which will, this year, honor Robert Goizueta, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Coca Cola Company. The only other person to receive this award was Mrs. Reagan in 1984.

Joe Sinay, President of Variety Clubs International, has told me he would be willing to ask the Variety Clubs' Board to donate a major portion of the proceeds from these event to the Afghan Children's Relief Fund. In return for this, he had originally asked for Mrs. Reagan to attend the banquet. I know that this is not possible because the Congressional Barbecue has been scheduled for that evening. I am suggesting, Mr. President, that you may wish to make a videotape message for those who will be attending the September 22 banquet congratulating Variety Clubs for its great humanitarian programs and pointing out your concern for the Afghan wounded children. I feel this would be an appropriate forum and an excellent opportunity for you to reach an important audience.

There should be excellent media coverage of this event and I am arranging for WORLDNET to cover it so it can be shown throughout the world. It would be a wonderful opportunity to share the compassion both you and Nancy have for the children of the world and your particular concern for the wounded Afghans.

With warm wishes.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick
Director

The President
The White House

DWF
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under number of final letter

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